



FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2005 VOL 65 — NO 13 — COMPANY E WWW.MCRDSD.USMC.MIL

Injured Marine fund donations reach \$1.2 mil

BY LANCE CPL. SHA'AHN WILLIAMS Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Nearly one year ago, a group of Marine Corps spouses noticed that families of injured Marines were experiencing financial difficulties far greater than the Marine Corps could help.

In the tradition of the Marine Corps' theme of taking care of its own, these women started the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund to assist with bills and

travel for families of Marines and sailors wounded during combat or training.

The fund has grown quickly over the last year and the founders are thrilled.

"We started out with donations totaling a couple of thousand dollars last year ... between two families," said Rene Bardorf, vice president and co-founder of the fund, which has since surpassed more than \$1.2 million and has helped 750 families, according to Bardorf.

"We are incredibly blessed to be able

to show our thanks and the fund gives other Marines and Sailors the opportunity to do the same," Bardorf said. "People don't plan for things like this to happen. Some people have to give up their jobs and move near their injured family member because of the service member's extended hospital stay."

The grants provided by the fund don't have to be repaid, and each family's case is revisited every four to six weeks.

SEE Fund, pg. 2

'... The kindness never stopped and my mother was able to be with me when I needed her most.'

- Lance Cpl. Corey Webb,

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID SAN DIEGO CA PERMIT #2427

Lost leg in an accident after 11 days in Iraq

Marines visit residents at vet hospital, share stories of heritage

BY PFC. CARLOS CHAVEZ Chevron Staff

The depot's Single Marine Program visited residents at the Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System in La Jolla, Calif., April 26.

The seven Marines dispersed throughout the care center and talked with patients who welcomed them with warm smiles and friendly handshakes.

"I enjoyed talking with patients about military experiences in exotic places and what their occupations were during their service," said Lance Cpl. Kelley A. Bentley, traffic management clerk, traffic management office.

Several veterans shared their time and motivation with today's Marines.

"When you're a Marine and your lifestyle is encompassed and focused on a daily routine, you forget about the proud heritage that your choice to be a Marine symbolizes," said Sgt. David Walter, SMP president. "Speaking with veterans of World War II and Korea made me feel proud to be part of a family."

SMP coordinator Britney E. O'Connor has made this visit a biannual event.

O'Connor said the trip is not limited to single Marines.

"Anyone who wants to come along is welcome. People in the center love to see visitors," said O'Connor.

Because of ground security force training and other depot operations, O'Connor said she expects limited participation at five to ten Marines.

"It's hard for the Marines to get permission to leave for these events during lunch because of their devotion to their primary mission and completing the work they are tasked with," O'Connor said.

SMP plans to visit the medical center again this summer.



Pvt. Arthur M. Sherriff III, Platoon 2067, Company E, struggles to knot a rope around a tire during a brain-boggling Crucible activity April 6. Pfc. Zachary Padron watches from the background. Co. E completed the 54-hour-long, mind-and-body challenge last month, and today the company graduates 341 Marines. Cpl. Derrick A. Small/Chevron

Sailor once stationed here as doc returns to be Marine

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS Chevron staff

Life was grand on the road. The journeyman lifestyle provided the freedom, travel and money he wanted but the Navy didn't quite give. Driving semi trucks across America for \$40,000 a year was the good life for Damian S. Mikulka,

but it lacked something: There were no Marines. As a Navy corpsman, Mikulka spent a decade

serving with Marines in operating forces. "I bleed green," said Mikulka. "After 10 years

with the Marines, I saw camaraderie and a closeness I couldn't get anywhere else." Green-side sailors, an unofficial term,

SEE Sailor, pg. 7

RECRUIT **SPOTLIGHT**



Pfc. Damian S. Mikulka



an Pacific Heritage Month





Elderly woman's trailer home gets love from volunteers

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER Chevron staff

A handful of depot Marines and community volunteers joined up April 23 to tidy up an elderly San Diegan's home as part of Rebuilding San Diego.

The effort, formerly called Christmas in San Diego, is a local chapter of Rebuilding Together America. The national day for this event was April 30, but volunteers decided to start early.

Capt. Bryan R. McClune gathered eight Marine volunteers who helped spruce up Margaret Heinze's trailer home. The woman survives her late husband Kelly Heinze, who served in the Marine Corps for 19 and half years before he was killed in a plane crash. He carpet. also served as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego from 1961 to 1963, according to McClune.

"The Marines were the biggest part in the success of this project," said Mc-Clune. "(The Marines) gave up their entire Saturday to come out here and help fix up this lady's house."

The house was not reconstructed but

'The Marines were the biggest part in the success of this project. They gave up their entire Saturday to come out here and help fix up this lady's house."

> - Capt. Bryan R. McClune. Helped organize volunteers

merely given a face-lift, according to Mc-Clune. Marines painted, fixed plumbing, cleaned old carpet and installed new

"We really got into detail with the paint iob outside the house," said Cpl. Robert W. Hill, administrative law clerk at the depot. "We spray-painted it with an industrial sprayer first and then went over it in detail a second time."

The volunteers said the overall experience was enjoyable.

Padres salute military at appreciation day

"It was nice to work with other people gtogether.org.

"We check back each month because bills usually come up again around that time," Bardorf said.

The goal of the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund is to help every injured Marine and sailor who has family members needing assistance.

Lance Cpl. Corey Webb, of 4th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, lost his left leg in an accident in Fallujah, Iraq after only 11 days in country.

Webb was flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he stayed for six months to recover.

The cost to be by his side during this time became difficult for his family to manage.

He received assistance from the fund, and was so grateful that he wrote a letter of appreciation: "My parents, Valle and Don Webb, flew from Alabama to be with me. Dad ended up staying for 10 days and Mom stayed 10 weeks. Both my parents have long working careers in Birmingham and it takes both of them working to pay the bills. Mom makes the mortgage payment and Dad pays the rest. The accident caused immediate financial concerns for both of them. Since her work wasn't paying her to be away, it became a financial burden for her to be there. This is where the angels (Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund) come in. Rene Bardorf visited my room just days after my accident. What Mrs. Bardorf was there to bring was such a blessing and a huge relief to my parents during this stressful time. A check! Written in the full amount of that month's mortgage. During the next two and a half months the kindness never stopped and my mother was able to be with me when I

Webb's letter echoes the sentiments of other families that have received help from the fund.

Bardorf hopes that as each year passes, more families can be assisted

"When we began the fund, we prayed every night that there would be donation checks in the mailbox so we could continue serving the brave men and women who defend our freedom," said Bardorf.

Bardorf's prayers continue to be answered as donations to the fund continue to grow.

The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund works closely with the Marine Corps, Navy, and hospitals nationwide to identify and assess the needs of specific families. The fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deduct-



To learn more about the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund or to make a donation, go to

Hotel & Conference Center in

The conference will include

workshops, a city tour, a golf

outing, and buffets. For more

information, visit www.marinep

arentsunited.com, or call (608)

455-7276 or (260) 636-3102.

edward.guevara@usmc.mil.

The Chevron staff reserves

those briefs that comply with

Department of Defense regu-

lations and the standards of

the right to publish only

the U.S. Government.

SEND BRIEFS TO:

Kansas City, Mo., July 28-31.

www.semperfifund.org

Embedded journalist's Iraqi Freedom accounts a must-have for devil dogs **BOOK REVIEW**

BY PFC. CARLOS CHAVEZ Chevron staff

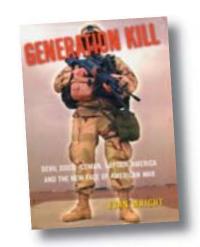
Combat and literature collide in journalist Evan Wright's "Generation Kill," a twisting, non-fiction adventure. Wright's first-person account tells of battle-edged Marines entering Operation Iraqi

The writer embedded himself with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division - a unit of Marines who fought at the operation's foremost lines and even leapt as decoys into ambushes.

Wright, holding nothing back in telling what Marines endured as the operation began, uses wonderful narration in describing the Marines' experiences in firefights, dealing with locals, medical evacuations and other combat situations. He also details confusion and moral dilemmas, and his vivid details give the story power.

He writes descriptively about riding along with 1st Recon into a night ambush: "Through his window, he sees muzzles spitting flames in the darkness like a bunch of flashes going off at once. Then he sees an RPG streak right over the rear hatch of Colbert's Humvee and explode."

Wright's description of the valiant and courageous acts of Marines - logging character names like Fick and Q-Tip Strafford – is something he does best. The author also writes about miscommunications and the issue of proper military equipment. When the convoy Wright traveled with rolled through Al Gharraf, a town in Southeastern Iraq, it sped through at 50 mph attempting to



reach light-armored reconnaissance Marines cut off across town. Communication broke down, and Wright suggests something as simple as a different radio channel could have kept lines open.

Wright and his convoy surprised the light-armored Marines - a surprise Wright said could have been disastrous.

According to Wright, 1st Recon fought throughout the operation not knowing they were a "quick-reaction force" - their primary role after all.

Maj. Gen. James Mattis, then 1st Marine Division's commanding general, described 1st Recon's role in Wright's book: "The small force races up back roads ahead of the big force rolling behind on the main road. The enemy orients their troops and weapons on the small force (not realizing it's the small one), and the big force hits them where they're not looking

It is sources and descriptions like that and other action tales in Wright's book that make "Generation Kill" a must-read for the military enthusiast and a musthave for devil dogs.

Serving includes family

I get asked all the time if I am exited to deploy to Afghanistan. The response is simple: Yes and no. To be cliché: It is bitter sweet.

I must add context. There are two reasons joined the military. The first is strictly selfish. I need to cleanse my conscience. I feel guilty. Thousands have died, blood has been shed and families have sacrificed throughout our 229 years in order for me to enjoy the rights I have today. Why should others sacrifice their lives, why should spouses become widowed, and why should brothers, sisters, sons and daughters be abandoned so I can enjoy the

In my opinion, there is something inherently wrong with allowing others to stand up for my freedom. It is unfair for those service members who have gone before and those serving now. I cannot live my life reaping the freedoms given to me by those who sacrificed without sacrificing something myself.

Throughout history, many families suffered hardship to keep this country free. Why should I not? I'm not special. My life is not more precious.

My second reason for joining the Marine Corps is because I believe serving my country is an honorable profession. To take up arms to support a cause, to support freedom, and to help others enjoy freedom is worth every sacrifice and should be applauded and encouraged. It is the greatest act of selflessness. There are things still worth dying for: ensuring my family, and the generations after us have a prosperous life is one reason for me. Another is ensuring the sacrifices of those before me were not wasted lives. It would be an injustice to them, their families and their purpose.

To me, it is better to die for a cause than to die of chance, disease or old age. I need to go to Afghanistan so I can say I did my part, so I can show the lonely families of those no longer that their lives were not wasted.

However, I have my own family who depend on me and love me. My wife needs me to be a husband, to support her, to hug and kiss her, to wake up next to her every morning

Anthony Del Signore Deputy public affairs officer

BY 1ST LT.

and to love her. My son needs me to be a father, to teach him right from wrong, to teach him to play basketball, to teach him quitting is not OK and to love him. My daughter who also needs me to be a father, to teach her right from wrong, to chase off her boyfriends, to teach her self-respect, and to love her.

And then there are my own desires to grow old with my wife, to watch my children grow up and start their families and succeed as adults. It is not fair to them or me, if I could not be a part of this.

But if something happened to me while I deployed - and I'll admit that's a small probability - I would hope a lesson would be learned. I would hope my wife, children, family, and friends would understand it wasn't a worthless sacrifice. They would learn the value of life and enhance their awareness of the necessity of the sacrifice for

I would hope friends and family would not take life for granted and give their best efforts throughout life as a way to honor my life and all others who lost lives in defense of a cause. I would hope they would realize that I was fighting for them to have that opportunity. I would hope they would be proud.

I have often thought how I would feel if my son or daughter died defending our country and our lifestyle. Understanding this question could never fully be answered unless it actually happened; I would feel sad, sick, and sorrow. But I also think I would feel extreme

We all need to use the talents we've been blessed with. God has given me a steady mind, a fit body and a sense of duty. This is

Others have sacrificed for my family and me. Why should I not sacrifice for you?

BY PHOTOGRAPHER'S MATE 2ND CLASS Naval Station San Diego

The San Diego Padres, known to many as the "Team of the Military," saluted service members April 20 when they hosted the Ninth Annual Military Appreciation Day at their new downtown home, Petco Park.

The Padres said thousands of service members took advantage of discounted tickets to attend the game.

The pre-game ceremonies started off with a performance by the Navy's Demonstration Parachute Team, the Leap Frogs. After the Leap Frogs landed, local sailors from a variety of commands marched in a procession of flags from all

Top sailors, Marines, soldiers, airmen and Coast Guardsmen serving in the San Diego area were recognized before the national anthem.

Vice Adm. James M. Zortman, Commander Naval Air Forces, threw the ceremonial first pitch. He said the Padres and the military have a special relationship.

"The Padres support the military not just on Military Appreciation Day, but every day of the year," said Vice Adm. Zortman. "And while this is an opportunity for the Padres to see the military fans in person, it is also great for the preciation Day camouflage jerseys, the service members. There isn't a military member in this stadium who doesn't have a smile on their face today."

USO weekly dinner

The United Service Organi-

zation holds a free dinner every

Tuesday for active duty service

Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and

generally lasts half an hour to

an hour. The dinners are put on

by various organizations ranging

from churches to youth groups

that want to give thanks by feed-

The menu changes weekly,

On the last Tuesday of every

month, participants are invited

to stay for after-dinner entertain-

and sponsors choose the meals.

ing service members.

members and their families.



A member of the U.S. Navy Parachute Team, the "Leap Frogs," descends into Petco Park April 20 in pre-game ceremonies for the San Diego Padres' military appreciation day. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Johansen Laurel

summer camps is May 15. The

camps are exclusively for chil-

dren of men and women serving

in the armed forces. Log on to

www.nmfa.org for all applica-

tions, forms, and camp locations.

For more information, call (800)

USMCCCA photo contest

The San Diego County Chap-

ter of the United States Marine

Corps Combat Correspondents

Association announces its first

be given for patriotic photos tak-

Recognition and awards will

photography contest.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Ellie Guardiola, 26, of Phoenix, enjoyed the game. "This game is great," said Guardiola,

who is stationed at Naval Medical Center, meeting top players. San Diego. "The feeling in this stadium is a nearly overwhelming feeling of respect for the military and camaraderie between the Padres and the military."

For many of the Padres players who wore their traditional Military Ap- munity and our country. Getting on this bond between the military and the team continues to grow. Some of the team veterans have toured local bases and ships Dodgers and lost 3-1.

ment, which generally coincides

The USO provides active duty

service members with a place to

relax and take a break, particu-

larly while traveling, changing

commands or moving to a new

duty station. The organization

relies on public generosity and

accepts donations. Please contact

the USO at (619) 235-6503 with

The National Military Family

Association's registration dead-

line for Operation Purple youth

any questions.

Summer camp

with the holiday of the month.

over the past few years and said they were just as excited at meeting service members as the military members were

Lance Cpl. John Solem, military justice

clerk, masks Margaret Heinze's San Diego

who had the same goals as we did,"

said Hill. "All of us maintained a smile

throughout the day. Margaret was great.

She really went out of her way to help

others. She took on a lot of responsibil-

ity to make sure the small things weren't

Rebuilding Together America, a non-

profit foundation, has 275,000 volunteers

nationwide and helps more than 1,000

homes nationwide. For more information

on this organization, visit www.rebuildin

home before volunteers painted it April

23. Capt. Bryan R. McClune

"The Padres think this is a very important game," said Padres manager Bruce Bochy. "This game gives us the opportunity to honor the military members and appreciate what they do for our comfield and giving them a great game is the least we can do."

The Padres played the Los Angeles

en since Sept. 11, 2001. Interested

individuals are invited to submit

8x10 original photos with a \$10

entry fee to SDCC USMCCCA

PHOTO CONTEST, President C.

M. Nelson, 4970 Frink Avenue,

San Diego, CA 92117 by May 30.

All submissions should include a

completed entry form with the

title of photograph, and the pho-

The second annual National

Marine Corps Parents' Confer-

ence will be held at the Hilton

tographer's name and address.

National U.S. Marine

Parents' Conference

Explaining lesser-known protections under Servicemembers Civil Relief Act

BY 1ST LT. BRIAN D. TRULOCK Contributing writer

Many questions presented to attorneys in the legal assistance office pertain to provisions of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, or SCRA. Clearly, many service members are aware of the **LEGAL** existence of this federal leg-

islation. The protections it provides, however, are sometimes difficult to understand.

Service in the armed forces means accepting potentially burdensome disruptions to an individual's personal life. Service members are regularly ordered to duty stations away from their domicile, and they often deploy for an extended duration on ship or to foreign countries.

The SCRA allows individuals on active duty to focus their attention on the needs of the nation by providing for the temporary suspension of civil proceedings and transactions that might prejudice the civil

rights of such persons. The "stay provision" of the SCRA allows a service member on active duty to request a stay when he or she is a defendant in a civil suit. The service member must send a letter to the court explaining how military obligations materially affect his or her ability to appear in court. Additionally, the letter must must also send a letter stating that the service member's military obligations prevent him or her from appearing in court, and that leave is not authorized for the service member at the time of the letter.

If the court finds that military service materially affects the service member's ability to appear, then it is required to grant a 90-day stay. Anything beyond 90 days is discretionary. The maximum stay allowed by the statute is for the entire period of military service plus 90 days. Generally, however, the stay will only last turn from deployment).

In some situations, a service member may have a default judgment entered against them for a failure to appear in court. This generally happens when the court is unaware of the defendant's milialso provide the date on which the service tary obligations. If a court/agency enters on which the individual entered military member will be available to appear. The a default judgment, the service member service. Therefore, there are some cases service member's commanding officer must move to reopen the judgment while in which the cap must be applied retrostill on active duty or within 90 days after leaving military service. The judgment will only be opened if two requirements are met: Military service materially affects the service member's ability to make a defense, and there is a meritorious defense to the underlying action.

A second protection provided by the SCRA is a maximum rate of interest protection on all pre-service obligations. Individuals entering active duty can invoke a 6-percent maximum interest rate

until military duties no longer restrict the they entered the military. This protection service member's ability to travel (e.g. reapplies to interest on mortgages, car loans, credit cards, etc.

A request for the interest rate cap must be sent to the credit agency with a copy of the service member's military orders.

Once the creditor receives written notice, the cap is effective as of the date actively. A creditor can refuse to apply the cap only when they can show that the service member's ability to pay the interest is not materially affected by their military obligations.

The SCRA includes a number of protections for service members. If you have any questions, please call (619) 524-4111 to schedule an appointment with a legal assistance attorney.

1st Lt. Brian D. Trulock is a legal assistance officer at Marine Corps Recruit for debts and obligation incurred before Depot San Diego's legal assistance office.

CHEVRON

COMMANDING GENERAL Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr.

SERGEANT MAJOR

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Maj. Joseph D. Kloppel

PRESS OFFICER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.

CPL. JESS LEVENS

LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER PFC. CARLOS CHAVEZ

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE 1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120 SAN DIEGO, CA 92140

(619) 524-8727

The Chevron, printed with appropriated funds in compliance with Marine Corps Order P5600.31F, is published by Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego personnel. Opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense. The Chevron is promulgated for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All photos are official USMC property unless otherwise indicated.

ESTABLISHED 1943

SGT. MAJ. FRANK E. PULLEY

joseph.kloppel@usmc.mil

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF MASTER SGT. JANICE M. HAGAR janice.hagar@usmc.mil

1ST LT. ANTHONY DEL SIGNORE anthony.delsignore@usmc.mil

STAFF SGT. SCOTT DUNN scott.dunn@usmc.mil

WEBMASTER

David Hoffman david.hoffman@usmc.mil

PRESS CHIEF

CHEVRON | FEATURE | MAY 6, 2005

Company H recruits engage moving targets April 28 during field week at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Recruits shot a variety of still and moving targets that morning.



As recruits aim and fire on targets, others prepare ammunition into magazines and wait their turns. Range officials walk the line, ensuring a safe environment.



With rifles in a tactical carry, recruits wait on the firing line for orders from the sound cart operator. Recruits fire from the standing, kneeling and prone positions before they advance to the next firing line. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron photos

RIFLE QUAL



Before recruits look through their rifle sights, marksmanship instructors teach proper weapons handling and techniques.



A recruit pulls down targets and covers bullet holes as recruits on the firing line await the next string of fire.

Before any job specialty, Marines have one tool to master

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER Chevron staff

he Marine Corps is full of administrative clerks, combat photographers, supply chiefs and so on, but just like infantrymen, all Marines must become riflemen first.

After four weeks training at the depot, recruits move 40-miles north to Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., for field and weapons training.

Much of the marksmanship training is conducted with classes formed in half circles in which recruits practice aiming in on palm-sized targets. Instructors coach recruits through shooting positions and procedures. All the while, instructors casually preach weapons safety. They want recruits to relax.

"One of the first things we tell recruits or Marines to remember when shooting is to relax," said Sgt. Matthew J. Maruster, primary marksmanship instructor. "Once you relax, you can apply what you learned a lot better than if you were stressed out."

To relax while shooting, Recruit Micah S. Parsons, Platoon 1065, Company D, said he used breath control: "The slow, steady breathing really helped slow me down."

Before actual firing takes place, recruits must become familiar with the

M-16 A2, a rifle they carried for the first month of training. Before second phase, however, that rifle has only been a drilling tool to them. The first week of second phase recruits learn weapons handling, safety, functions and marksmanship.

Instructors also throw in their own two-cents

"We give advice on our own experiences," said Maruster. "Show them some tricks of the trade."

Different shooting positions are a big part of the syllabus. Recruits learn four: the prone – lying flat on the stomach, the kneeling, the standing, and the sitting.

Maruster said kneeling is the best position to learn because it is used most frequently on the range and in combat.

"Most of the time when you engage your enemy, you don't have enough time to get down on the deck, so you just go to the kneeling or sitting position," said Maruster

"The prone was the easiest position for me," said Parsons. "Being able to steady the weapon helped me to take my time. I had a little trouble in the standing."

Marksmanship instructors make sure recruits are familiar with three carrying positions and four weapon conditions because range officials do not tolerate unsafe weapon handling.

"Safety is important, obviously," said Maruster. "You never want to lose or injure a recruit when it could have been prevented. Most of the time, it is easy enough. The safety is already in their head. It is engrained through boot camp."

Drill instructors, coaches and marksmanship instructors keep a constant watch on the recruits, who are given no room for error.

"Coaches and drill instructors were always on the alert," said Parsons. "Making sure your weapon was cleared and on safe after you were done firing – everything was pretty locked on according to safety."

"Marksmanship in general should be taken very seriously," said Maruster. "Whether you are an (administrative Marine) or an (intelligence Marine), no matter what military occupational specialty, you should have the ability to put rounds down range in a particular direction and be able to hit a target. The past few years have shown that you don't necessarily have to be an (infantryman) to be a rifle man."

Recruits earn badges that place them within a certain class according to their shooting score. Before recruits graduate boot camp, they must earn at least a marksman's badge.

As Marines, they will receive annual training with the M16 A-2 service rifle, and with enough skill, a chance to compete against others in shooting competitions, both regionally and nationally. For now, a badge will have to do.

CHEVRON | GRADUATING COMPANY | MAY 6, 2005 CHEVRON | GRADUATING COMPANY | MAY 6, 2005

ECHO COMPANY



Platoon 2069 Pvts. Timothy Marvin, bottom, and Jose-Carlos Pacheco, Company E, fight through barbed wires and walls while carrying and controlling a sand-filled ammunition canister during a day-movement infiltration course, a part of the Crucible, April 6, 2005. The Crucible is a 54-hour-long training event that challenges the mind and body to endure with limited sleep and food. Cpl. Derrick A. Small/Chevron

RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT

COL. W. M. CALLIHAN

Sergeant Major

SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD

Regimental Drill Master

GUNNERY SGT. C. A. WALKER

Parade Adjutant

CAPT. J. E. LOGAN

STAFF SGT. R. E. JIMENEZ

Pvt. D. M. Kelley

Pfc. K. J. Little

Pvt. S. P. Lovelady

Pfc. J. A. Marino

Pvt. S. P. Schoeszle

Pfc. B. D. Spencer

Pvt. D. M. Uffelmar

Pvt. R. P. Strickland II

Staff Sqt. A. R. Arrieta

Drill Instructors

Sgt. J. A. Abrego

Sqt. C. A. Carrier

Sgt. M. Rodriguez

Pfc. J. T. Adams

Pvt. J. N. Albin

Pvt. K. J. Allisor

Pvt. T. A. Alu

Pvt. J. L. Angel

Pvt. D. M. Ardol

Pvt. Z. N. Auclai

Pvt. A. P. Bakke

Pvt. M. T. Billman

Pfc. L. R. Bosen

Pvt. B. S. Bovd

Pvt. D. M. Boyle

*Pfc. R. S. Brevitz Jr

Pvt. A. J. Bruffy Pvt. M. T. Buckley

Pvt. B. C. Bussing

Pvt. S. J. Carolla

Pfc. J. D. Cohron

Pvt. L. C. Cole

Pvt. J. C. Crain

Pvt. M. D. Daled

Pvt. J. S. Deleon

Pvt. E. S. Edwards

Pfc. B. C. Elizalda

Pvt. M. N. Canterbury

Pvt. B. M. Chamberlain

*Pfc. R. N. Charboneau

Pvt. J. H. Blevins II

Staff Sgt. A. Macias



& WESTERN RECRUITING REGION BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR Sergeant Major

SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY

These are America's newest Marines and their leaders at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Company E graduates

341 men today: SECOND RECRUIT TRAINING

Commanding Office Lt. Col. V. A. Ary Lt. Cmdr. W. P. Neis Sergeant Major Sgt. Maj. T. T. Hoskins **Battalion Drill Master** Staff Sgt. D. A. Headrick

COMPANY E Commanding Office Capt. T. Demann Company First Sergear 1st Sgt. T. E. Ryan

SERIES 2065 Capt. J. J. Norris

SERIES 2069 Capt. J. C. Torbensen Series Gunnery Sergeant Staff Sgt. A. T. Dupree

PLATOON 2065 Senior Drill Instructo Staff Sgt. E. Penameza Sgt. F. W. Ortega

Pvt. J. C. Ballew II Pvt. B. D. Barr Pvt. M. T. Blandir Pfc. J. R. Brock Pfc. T. A. Bunch Pvt. J. R. Burnha Pfc. A. J. Butler Pvt. W. R. Caldwel Pvt. J. R. Caudill Pvt. J. A. Cichorz Pfc. D. T. Clark Pfc. C. G. Clement Pvt. C. D. Cotton Pvt. A. M. Crandall Pvt. R. N. Darlin

Staff Sgt. K. J. Cade

*Pfc. S. L. Alamo II

Pvt. P. S. Alexander J

Pvt. G. D. Ausherman

Pvt. G. Albalopez

*Pfc. T. C. Deville Pvt. B. T. Diego Pvt. D. A. Dominguez Pvt. A. F. Downey *Pfc. H. Escobedo Pvt. E. M. Felixmunoz Petty Officer 3rd Class P. G. Pvt. J. Flores Pvt. J. C. Flores Pvt. A. D. Floresesquive

Pfc. L. F. Fuess

Pvt. R. A. Furtado

Pvt. I. A. Galindo

Series Gunnery Sergeant Gunnery Sgt. M. M. Lett

Pvt. J. K. Gambol Pvt. B. A. Gann Pfc. L. C. Garcia Pvt. G. M. Geralde Pvt. C. G. Gillman Pfc. J. D. Gipson Pvt. M. N. Gomez Pvt. J. J. Gonzalez Pvt. O. Gonzalez *Pfc. J. A. Gordon Pvt. W. C. Grimes

Pvt. B. Ha Pfc. J. T. Happach Pfc. J. C. Hojek III Sgt. B. M. Graham



Compton, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. R. A. Carlos II



SERIES HONORMAN Pfc. J. C. Hojek Chicago Recruited by Staff Sgt. F. J. Boden



PLATOON HONORMAN PLATOON HONORMAN Pfc. M. J. Sims Pfc. R. Q. Lowery San Antonio Santa Rosa, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. F. Garcia



HIGH SHOOTER (239) Pfc. B. D. Swanson Lewistown, Mont. Marksmanship Instructor: Sgt. N. L. Thomlison

Pvt. S. H. Henning II

Pvt. B. R. Luedtke

Pvt. K. P. Mever

Pvt. A. C. Milner

Pvt. J. R. Mitchell

*Pfc. C. D. Moody

Pvt. B. R. Moreno

Pfc. R. A. Moulder

Pvt. M. A. Mvers

Pvt. A. J. Mvrick

Pvt. K. E. Newlin

Pvt. G. J. Nunez

Pvt. B. J. Nygard

Pvt. J. P. Oefelein

*Pfc. A. F. Ortega

Pfc. S. R. Ozenbaugh

Pvt. N. J. Rademacher

Pvt. E. A. Otero

Pfc. C. Perales

Pvt. C. A. Priest

Pvt. T. A. Pearson

*Pfc. J. C. O'Conno

Pvt. M. C. Naughton

Pvt. R. L. Moss

PLATOON HONORMAN Pfc. B. Yount Troy, III. Recruited by Staff Sgt. K. Phuorng

Pvt. A. R. Finnegar

Pfc. J. L. Gallegos

Pfc. T. J. Housder

Pvt. L. A. Johnson

Pfc. E. A. Macias

Pfc. D. S. Mikulka

Pfc. G. Naieramund

Pvt. N. R. Ortega

Pfc. Z. P. Padron

Pvt. M. D. Parraz

Pvt. P. G. Perez

Pvt. T. J. Petersen

Pvt. C. W. Petersor

Pvt. J. M. Plummer

Pvt. T. M. Prinzina

Pfc. E. A. Quijano

Pvt. M. S. Ramos

Pvt. C. T. Restifo

Pfc. J. B. Rodgers

Pvt. J. A. Rodriquez

Pfc. N. J. Romig

*Pfc. R. Soto Jr.

*Pfc. D. A. Sanchez

Pvt. A. M. Sherriff III

Pvt. J. E. Shumate Ji

*Pfc. M. J. Sims

Pvt. S. B. Skiles

Pvt. J. W. Sneed

Pvt. D. A. Snyder

Pfc. J. K. Soltvsial

Pfc. B. S. Springer

Pfc. W. A. Stacy

Pvt. A. M. Stafos

Pvt. M. A. Stehr

Pvt. T. K. Sund

Pfc. M. A. Sullivai

Pvt. A. L. Taurone

*Pfc. B. W. Taylor

Pfc. J. A. Thieme

Pfc. J. L. Thomaso

Pfc. J. C. Verdugo

Pfc. S. M. Vincent

Pfc. A. M. Wagne

Pvt. C. R. Walker

Pvt. B. T. Watkins

Pfc. B. J. Watzig

PLATOON 2069

Drill Instructors

Senior Drill Instructi

Staff Sgt. A. Blanco

Sgt. D. M. Martinez

Staff Sgt. B. C. Clark

Sat. J. T. Johnson

Sgt. L. Rodriguez

Pvt. T. I. Acoff Pfc. D. D. Albrecht

Pvt. J. M. Barnes

Pvt. A. J. Bowles

Pfc. S. S. Castreior

Pvt. A. R. Crockett

Pfc. R. P. Delarosa

Pfc. R. A. Donnelly

Pvt. D. R. Fielden

Pfc. P. T. Fisher

Pfc. R. E. Fouch

Pvt. T. R. Goodrich

Pvt. C. R. Heaton

Pfc. W. A. Hodges

Pvt. R. E. Hodgson J

*Pfc. D. A. Johannecl

Pvt. M. A. Hintz

Pvt. B. R. Jones

Pvt. A. D. King

Pfc. D. J. Kurtz Pvt. T. E. Lamell

Pvt. E. K. Leyva

Pvt. T. J. Marvin

Pvt. T. Mocarzel

Pvt. D. T. Munday

*Pfc. B. S. Osgood

Pvt. J. L. Pacheco

Pfc. M. Abid

Pvt. T. J. Ryan

MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO

Band Office.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES

MASTER SGT. D. W. PRIC

COLOR GUARD

SGT W FRANCOFUE

PFC. B. R. SWANSON

PVT. B. R. LUEDTTKE

*Pfc. J. D. Gaines

Pfc. R. A. Garcia

Pvt. S. D. Garrett

Pvt. C. R. Gernand

Pfc. M. E. Gibson Jr

Pfc. D. S. Graham

Pvt. K. R. Greer

Pfc. D. E. Grove

Pfc. A. M. Hame

Pvt. C. D. Helse

Pvt. D. R. Hamilton

Pvt. T. A. Hendrikse

Pfc. C. R. Holmes

Pvt. J. A. Houchir

Pfc. W. E. Howard

Pfc. E. W. Johnson

Pvt. M. E. Johnson

Pvt. C. W. Jones

Pvt. J. S. Kerns

Pfc. A. J. Koehle

Pvt. J. A. Konen Jr

Pfc. T. N. Leonard

Pfc. E. A. Lopez

Pvt. D. C. Lynch

Pvt. H. Quezada

Pvt. S. R. Rossi

Pvt. L. C. Tigard

PLATOON 2067

Sgt. B. A. Price

Pvt. R. M. Bandy

Pfc. D. L. Barnes

Pfc. B. M. Becker

Pvt. S. M. Blythe

Pvt. D. R. Carroll

Pvt. L. R. Cooley Pvt. C. M. Crady

Pvt. K. W. Chideste

Staff Sgt. B. E. Pattor

Staff Sgt. R. J. Smith

Staff Sqt. L. G. Brostowski

Pfc. S. M. Lineweave

*Pfc. R. Q. Lowery Jr

Pvt. A. R. Pleas

Pfc. C. Morales

Pvt. K. R. Grant

Pvt. M. S. Hall

PLATOON HONORMAN Pfc. A. F. Ortega Whittier, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. M. A. Grande

Pfc. J. D. Pelrov

Pvt. J. A. Putnam

Pvt. J. E. Redmve

*Pfc. H. G. Reyes

Pvt. J. G. Reves

Pvt. J. M. Smith

Pvt. J. C. Thomas

Pvt. A. G. Vlasak

Pvt. S. G. Watson

Pfc. N. R. Weber

Pvt. J. J. Weinzatl

Pvt. T. M. Weinzier

Pvt. J. M. Williams Jr

Pvt. G. W. Yoder Jr

Pvt. A. W. Young

Pvt. C. R. Young

Pvt. D. F. Young

*Pfc. B. J. Youn

Pvt. L. A. Zamora

Pvt. J. J. Whalen

Pvt. D. A. Valadezsolorio

Pfc. T. J. Satterfield

HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. J. I. Olivares El Paso, Texas Recruited by Gunnery Sgt. A. Sena

Pvt. D. A. Kamppila Pfc. A. M. Kappler Pvt. J. A. Keyser Pfc. A. M. Kina Pfc. M. E. Knudsen Pvt. D. A. Lassalle *Pfc. P. M. Lopez Pfc. E. G. Lovos Jr. Pvt. T. J. Lowrie Pvt. R. Luna Pfc. Z. A. Luna Pfc. A. T. Malkovich Pvt. D. J. Mallov Pvt. A. M. Martin Pvt. K. C. Martin Pvt. N. P. Maxedor Pvt. C. M. Mav Pvt. R. G. Maycott Pvt. J. W. Mavhan Pvt. B. W. Mazzoli

Pfc. W. C. McLean

Pvt. B. A. McLemore

*Pfc. D. E. McQuiston

Pvt. D. P. Zimmer Pvt. S. M. Zink PLATOON 2070 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. M. A. Mann Staff Sqt. M. A. Betancourt

Sgt. D. Lochard Pvt. I. Altamira Pfc. B. D. Anderson Pvt. L. D. Badger Pfc. S. T. Batty Pvt. S. A. Candelar Pvt. J. S. Carrasco Pvt. G. P. Cope Pfc. P. Q. Estep Pvt. J. J. Gibson Pfc. J. L. Guadarrama Jr *Lance Cpl. U. Holifield

Pvt. P. A. Beckford Pvt. D. J. Howry Pvt. R. J. Ingram Pvt. J. T. Jacobsm Pfc. S. R. Jones

Pvt. D. C. Kalinowski

Pvt. F. Mendoza Pvt. A. L. Michaels Pvt. E. A. Nault Pvt. C. D. Nauven Pvt. K. J. Norgard Pfc. J. I. Olivares Pvt. D. E. Powell Pvt. S. E. Sanchez

Pfc. A. B. Thompson Pfc. S. M. Thompson Pvt. C. R. Williams Pvt. D. A. Yohn PLATOON 2071 Staff Sqt. A. E. Ceritelli Drill Instructors Sgt. L. Cepeda Sat. M. C. Swenson Staff Sgt. H. Ruano Sgt. J. C. Opie Pvt. E. D. Arndt Pvt. J. B. Boyer Pvt. M. W. Church

Pvt. A. R. Raymundo Pvt. N. G. Regopoulos Pfc. J .T. Ross Pvt. G. Sabich IV Pvt. R. M. Scott Pfc. T. D. Sheers Pvt. D. W, Stacy *Pfc. B. R. Swansor Pvt. C. A. Thomas Pvt. B. Y. Tolbert Pvt. R. Trinidadrosales Pfc. S. M. Villa Jr. Pvt. D. P. Waltz Pfc. B. C. Weiss Pvt. B. J. Whalen Pvt. G. W. Wheaton Pfc. M. L. Zeimys

*Meritorious promotion

COMPANY CURIOSITIES Here's how men from **Echo Company** answered Chevron's questions about their interests and boot camp experiences:

favorite Meal

Ready to Eat?

Pvt. Ivan

Altamira

El Paso, Texas

A: Chicken

after adding

noodles because

Tabasco, it is great

and fast to eat.

O: What was the O: What is your scariest moment of training?



Pvt. Brandon L. Mansfield

A: The first Friday Black Firday and not knowing what to expect.

Q: How is it living with such a diverse group?



Pfc. Jessie L. Guadarrama Jr. Eldorado, Texas

A: Feels like I have more brothers.



Sailor, from pg. 1

are those stationed with Marines; blueside sailors are assigned to Navy units.

"I left the Navy because I wanted to stay green-side," said Mikulka. "When I got orders to leave (the Fleet Marine Force), I knew I couldn't get the same bond that I got with the Marines, so I just got out."

Upon his naval exit, Mikulka's buddy, Dean Helberg, suggested he become a truck driver. Helberg drove a truck for a large chunk of his life, and he said he loved it. Mikulka took the friendly advice and earned his Class A driver's license.

"Driving 18-wheelers became my passion," said Mikulka. "It's an art form. I once backed a truck into a loading dock with only six inches of clearance on the sides. It was awesome."

Besides the artistic perks of driving a big rig, Mikulka submerged himself into a new world he never saw in the Navy.

"I loved just being out on the road," said the Bannister, Mich., native. "The trucks are so big; you can see everything around you. I loved seeing America and meeting all the interesting people - making trucker friends and swapping stories."

Only one missing element sullied the sparkle of a truck-driving man's life for Mikulka. He missed his Marines.

"The trucker community doesn't have the bond that Marines have," said Mikulka. "That was what I missed, and I couldn't shake that feeling." So Mikulka chose to take his lifestyle

down a less-traveled path – driving trucks in the Marines. He made a short trip to the Escondido, Calif., Marine recruiters office and met with Staff Sgt. Antonio Lopez. "Mikulka amazed me," said Lopez. "As

a recruiter, I can appreciate why he joined the Corps. He just loves the Marines, and his experience was so great in the Navy, that he wanted to be a Marine. "Most former corpsmen try to get into

a medical field, but Mikulka will be a motor (transport) Marine. He did phenomenally well on the tests. He had the scores to work in intelligence or any other field, but he loves driving trucks, and he loves Marines."

Mikulka, 31, said he wasn't worried about recruit training. He served as a depot corpsman for four years, and he said he had a great understanding of recruit training.

"Nothing here surprised me," he said. "I've seen how training here works, and I know it's just something I have to do to be a Marine. Don't get me wrong; it's a huge challenge, especially at my age, but I was ready for it."

When Mikulka joined Platoon 2067, Company E three months ago, his drill instructors knew he was different by the brigade of gray hairs encroaching his black crew cut. He had the routine down from the first day.

"We couldn't understand why Mikulka already knew so much," said Sgt. Brian Price, Mikulka's drill instructor. "Once I found out about his prior service, I respected him more. I was in the fleet with green-side corpsmen, and they do everything we do. They are practically Marines."

But Price said Mikulka's prior service didn't merit any special treatment. The recruit's true value showed in his present training.

"Corpsman or not, Mikulka is just a good recruit," said Price. "(He) leads with his example, not his experience. He makes it a point to finish first, and he helps mentor the platoon. The other recruits respect his age and experience."

Mikulka serves as a squad leader, a leadership billet that suits his purpose, he

"I don't want to be the platoon guide," said Mikulka. "I already know Marine Corps leadership. These young guys are the future of the Corps, not me. I have 10 years until I retire; they have 20. It's best for them to learn leadership early on."

Mikulka graduates today as a private first class, and he said he doesn't know how long he will stay a Marine.

"I want to earn a business degree while I'm in," said Mikulka. "My plan is to open my own transport business when I'm out and hire former Marines. That is how I will give back to the Corps, and I will have that Marine camaraderie in the workplace. Plus, Marines accomplish the mission no matter what. I won't have to worry about deliveries being late."

According to Lopez, Mikulka's experi ence on the green-side coupled with his passion for his craft speak volumes about the impact of the brotherhood of Marines and of Mikulka's personal drive.

"The Marine Corps traditions spread to anyone who encounters us," said Lopez. "Mikulka is a perfect example of that."



Retired Sgt. Maj. Armando R. Aguilar

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Sgt. Maj. Armando R. Aguilar was born in El Paso, Texas, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in September 1958. Upon completion of recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, he was assigned to Company A, 1st Anti-Tank Assault Battalion, 1st Marine Division and Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station Atsugi, Japan, where he served with the Marine Security

Guard detachment.

In 1965, he joined Co. E, 2nd Bn., 5th Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam. After 13 months of combat operations, he returned to the United States in 1967.

Shortly thereafter, he reported to MCRD Parris Island, S.C., for Drill Instructor School and completed a successful tour of duty as a drill instructor before returning to the Republic of South Vietnam with a provisional rifle company, Force Logistics Command

spector-Instructor Staff, 26th Rifle Co., 4th Marine Division, in Minneapolis. His subsequent tours included Infantry Training School, Camp Pendleton and First Sergeants School.

He also served as sergeant major, 3rd Recruit Training Bn., MCRD Parris Island. After 30 years of active duty, Aguilar retired as the sergeant major of MCRD San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region in July 1987.

Aguilar's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal

He then reported to the Inwith gold star in lieu of second award, the Combat Action Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal ninth award, Vietnam Service Medal with six campaign stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with silver star and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

> Aguilar is married to the former Mitsue Kamekawa of Okinawa. The Aguilars have three children and three grandchildren. Aguilar is currently employed as a police officer for the city of San Diego.

SEE PAC MAN



Admin bunch saves season, upsets undefeated District, 71-43

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS Chevron staff

Consolidated Personnel Administration Center demolished 12th Marine Corps District 71-43 in its last Commanding General's Cup regular season basketball game, saving a shaky season and rocketing CPAC into

the playoffs. District, who beat CPAC in the season opener, missed out on an undefeated campaign.

"We came out with a vengeance," said CPAC's Cpl. Kyle Ochoa, who scored 17 points. "We did what we had to do to stay in (championship contention)."

The vengeance started early. CPAC knocked down shot after shot. Sgt. Aubrey Bibbs, who caught fire

early and couldn't be contained, led a volley of swishes. District couldn't help but turn the ball over to the admin Marines' demanding defense.

At the close of the first 20-minute half, CPAC had more than doubled District, 34-16. CPAC players sipped some water and reentered the court, ready to finish the onslaught.

CPAC launched an aggressive full-court press defense that completely derailed District in the second half. In a span of 15 seconds, Ochoa stole three consecutive inbounds passes and scored two lay-ups and dished off an assist on his final steal.

"I don't know what happened there," said Ochoa. "I wanted to end the game, and I guess my adrenaline just kicked in."

At that point, CPAC was riding a 60-30 cushion. CPAC toned down the vengeance, but still knocked down jump shots with little resistance. District didn't quit completely though. The recruiting Marines sank a few undefended lay-ups, but CPAC was just too far ahead. The buzzer screeched and CPAC rejoiced in its newfound redemption.

"Looks like we finally got our acts together," said Ochoa. "After a game like this, I feel like we can beat anybody."

CPAC, whose record improved to 2-3, squares off against the new 3-1 Coast Guard team. District's record dropped to 4-1, and it drew a bye in the first round of the playoffs next Tuesday at the depot field house.



 $\textbf{Lance Cpl. Jeff Peterson, CPAC's third game-leading scorer, attempts a long-distance finger roll. \textit{Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron photos}}$



CPAC's Sgt. Aubrey Bibbs, the game's leading scorer, sinks a jumper from the free throw line in the waning minutes of the first half.